

Talk to Linda Holser, treasurer's office, about the fact that some people refer to volunteer organizations as tea and cookie, do-nothing outfits and she becomes easily irritated. That's because she has been volunteering for various organizations for years, even though she works full time at K mart. Holser works hard on all of her outside projects and puts in so many hours that she barely has time to cut her grass.

Holser's major contribution goes to the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), Clawson Junior Woman's Club. She joined this organization in 1978 and has served as corresponding secretary, third vice president, second vice president and newsletter editor. She has been on the state board of the Federation of Junior Women's Clubs for four years and served as program planning chairperson and news editor for the state. "I get very incensed when I hear about so-called tea and coffee social hour clubs. We work hard. Sure, we serve tea and coffee, but that's called refreshments. Years ago, the business portion of the volunteer meetings used to take 20 minutes. Now it takes an hour or an hour and a half to get through that part," Holser says. "I've been so busily engaged with my different volunteer projects that my neighbor came over and cut my grass. I don't know if he felt sorry for me or if he was ashamed of my grass! His wife said that he felt sorry for me since I never seem to have time to cut my lawn."

Holser's new duty of serving on the board as state junior newsletter editor will last for two years. She precluded this by helping the state junior director type her reports and some of the speeches and programs that she gave.

Then there was the cookbook. Holser typed all of the recipes that were submitted for a two part, 250-page cookbook put out by the state junior board members and cakewalkers. It was sold as a fund raiser to benefit Girlstown, an organization that Holser's club supports. Girlstown is located in Belleville and is a home for emotionally disturbed teenage girls. But it is not your typical institution. It helps girls who cannot live at home mostly because they have been mentally, physically or sexually abused or rejected by their family. In 1983, Holser's club raised and donated over \$10,000 to Girlstown.

"Our clubs (all state junior clubs) reported over 960 projects conducted and a whopping \$106,419 raised and donated to various 1983 service projects. Our clubs across the nation and worldwide boast a

A single smile is worth more than a paycheck for volunteer Linda Holser

membership of 100,000 women, the largest all-volunteer organization in the world. We have even been recognized by President Reagan," Holser boasts.

There's more

Just when it seems like there may be an end to what she does for others, Holser adds, "I'm also involved in my son's Cub Scout pack. By involved, I mean as an active member of the committee. I have as the pack's secretary/treasurer." This means that she must attend all pack meetings, do the books and on top of that she helped rewrite the pack's bylaws. And any time someone gets an award, wants to go on a trip or use the money from various fund raisers, they must go through Holser.

And she almost forgot to mention the fact that she is attending Oakland University part time in the diploma program for legal assistants. "This takes a lot of time because I am in the law library quite a bit. I'm going to try to become a certified legal assistant."

The question is why does Holser volunteer all of her free time and how

does she juggle her hours outside of K mart?

"You decide what you want to do and how much time you want to devote to it," Holser explains. "You don't get paid for volunteer work, you work terrible hours and you do an awful lot of work, but it is so gratifying. I had a need to do something to help somebody. I wanted to do something for my community. I wanted to do something where I could see a result so I became involved in my local club. At that time I was a Sunday school teacher and worked as the picture person where you take art work around to the local schools and tell the kids about the pictures. But it didn't fulfill my need. It didn't do what I wanted it to do. When I became involved in the women's club I could see the things I was doing. We would go to Cambridge Nursing Home and do things for these people. It's so rewarding to see the tears run down these people's cheeks as you give them a flower. Just a simple flower. It's gratifying because we do it not because we have to, but because we want to.

Because she wants to. That's Holser's answer to why she does most things. Even decorating cakes. Yes, another spare time project of Holser's is baking and decorating elaborate wedding cakes for friends and family, including a few wedding cakes for women in the building.

A free evening for Holser might include a combination of laundry, house cleaning, yard work and washing her hair all in-between phone calls she must make or receive, concerning her volunteer activities. "Usually, I don't sit down for a breather until 10 pm," Holser admits.

What's next?

The thing about Holser is that with all she does, she feels that her mission is not yet accomplished. "I still want to do more. I still feel like I could be doing more for someone."

One project that she hopes to start next year is what she terms a "Stay out of Reach" program which will teach children what a stranger is and how to deal with them. "Child abuse has been one of my pet projects over the last few years and I wish I had more time to work on it. I'm hoping that this summer I'll be able to spend some time doing some research and get a program started. I think that people in a small town like Clawson need to be educated." Holser was happy to find out that this has been added to the state Federation of Junior Women's Clubs activities list for the upcoming year's program.



Holser's cakes are almost too pretty to cut.